



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## BOTANY.

**The Ninth Report of the Missouri Botanical Garden.**—It is doubtful whether the word "report" best describes the annual collection of original papers issued from the Missouri Botanical Garden. It is true each volume is prefaced by a brief statement of the financial condition, chief expenditures, and general progress of the Garden, but the body of the present "report," like most of its predecessors, is made up of articles upon research work, in fact of *acta*, a term for which, unfortunately, the English language possesses no very satisfactory equivalent. The more important events in the development of the Garden, during 1897, have been the erection of a new range of greenhouses; the acquisition of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres of additional land, and the purchase of the Redfield, Joor, Jermy, and Boehmer & Ludwig herbaria, together making an increment of about 30,000 specimens to the already extensive herbarium of the Garden. A peculiar feature in the report is an attempt to give a money valuation to the specimens in the herbarium, the value fixed upon being 10 cents per mounted sheet. This, it is true, approximates the ordinary commercial rate for recent collections, but in large and well-organized herbaria, in which considerable groups of plants have received expert identification of monographers, and many are, as Dr. Gray used to say, "embalmed in synonymy," it would certainly seem that the value, if given at all, might fairly be placed at a considerably higher figure. The growth of the library of the Garden has been even more remarkable than that of the herbarium, since no less than 7756 books and pamphlets have been secured during 1897.

The principal scientific papers in the report are: "A revision of the American Lemnaceæ occurring north of Mexico" (already noticed in these pages), by C. H. Thompson; "Notes upon *Salix longipes* Shuttl. and its relations to *S. nigra* Marsh.," by Dr. N. M. Glatfelter; "Revision of the genus *Capsicum*," by H. C. Irish; "List of cryptogams collected in the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Grand Cayman," by Prof. A. S. Hitchcock; "*Agave Washingtonensis* and other Agaves flowering in the Washington Botanical Garden in 1897," by Dr. J. N. Rose; and "The species of Cacti commonly cultivated under the generic name *Anhalonium*," by C. H. Thompson.

Especially noteworthy among these papers is Mr. Irish's monograph of *Capsicum*. An intensive examination of this well-known genus (which yields the various forms of red pepper known as

Cayenne, Chilli, Tabasco, etc.) was begun many years ago by Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant, of Framingham, Mass; but owing to ill-health he was obliged to relinquish the work. Accordingly, with the gift of his noble collection of prelinnæan herbals, he sent to the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1892 his notes upon and specimens of the genus *Capsicum*. The task of shaping these materials into a final monograph has been a difficult one, and through some changes in the corps of herbarium assistants its completion has met with much delay.

The extreme variability in the forms of *Capsicum* led even in prelinnæan times to the characterization of a great number of species, and during the last century and a half more than 150 species and botanical varieties have been described and named, to say nothing of numerous lesser variations designated as horticultural forms. However, Mr. Irish is wisely conservative in his botanical treatment, recognizing but two species, *C. annuum* and *C. frutescens*. Of these the former exhibits much the greater variability and in the present treatment is divided into some twelve botanical and fifty-five horticultural varieties, many of which are figured. The extensive bibliography and the complex synonymy of these forms are cited with great fullness and detail.

B. L. R.

**Sur le genre *Simmondsia*.<sup>1</sup>**—The shrubby monotype *Simmondsia californica* Nutt. has long been placed among the Buxaceæ. It inhabits arid regions in Southern and Lower California, and by the Spaniards is called *jojoba*. Economically it is notable for its large embryos, which, when removed from the seed-coats, are edible and nutritious in the manner of almonds. Without recognizing its identity with Nuttall's *Simmondsia*, Dr. A. Kellogg once described the plant as a *Galphimia*, but this was a mere guess at its affinity. Other botanists, who have dealt with its classification, have until now agreed in referring it to the box tribe of the Euphorbiaceæ or to the Buxaceæ, if that group is separated as an independent family. However, on the basis of morphological and anatomical investigations Professor Van Tieghem now expresses the belief that its affinities are rather to be found among the Chenopodiales, and furthermore that it is best regarded as the type of a distinct family, the Simmondsiaceæ, to be placed next the Tetragoniaceæ. The chief reasons assigned for the separation of *Simmondsia* from the Buxaceæ are the peculiar structure of the stem (in which successive

<sup>1</sup> Van Tieghem, Ph. *Journal de Botanique*, vol. xii, pp. 103-112.